

# **Indian Prairie School District 204**

## **English Language Learning Program**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the English Language Learning Program in Indian Prairie School District 204 is to foster the linguistic and academic development as well as the personal and social growth of the English language learners in our learning community.

### **Philosophy**

#### **Learning Environment**

Within our classrooms, we establish a caring, inclusive, safe, and linguistically and culturally rich community of learning where students take intellectual risks and work both independently and collaboratively.

We believe that:

- All English language learners need to feel respected. Both the native language and the native culture should be valued.
- Prejudice and discrimination in the school community should be addressed and challenged.
- High expectations should be maintained for English language learners with respect to their English language proficiency levels.
- English language learners bring diverse cultural knowledge and experiences that contribute positively to the classroom and school environment.

#### **Meaningful Learning**

Using a variety of research based approaches; we provide meaningful, authentic English language instruction to meet the specific needs of English language learners. We provide multiple paths to help students develop language proficiency and build knowledge of and strengthen understanding of the “Big Ideas” of academic content. In order to accomplish this, we select, adapt, create, and use rich and varied resources.

We believe that:

- English language learners require sheltered content instruction according to their English language proficiency level.
- Native language support and development facilitates the learner's capacity to acquire the English language and academic content.
- English language learners are entitled to access to all programs and services in the school as appropriate and necessary.

## **Assessment**

We employ a variety of assessment methods to obtain useful information about student learning and development and to assist students in reflecting on their own progress.

We believe that:

- Formal and informal assessment strategies should be used to support the students' continuous linguistic and educational development.
- Students need to self-reflect regularly so that they can be more adept at monitoring and assessing their own thinking and learning.
- Assessment should be authentic, allowing the students to apply what they know to real world situations.

## **Connections with Families**

We create connections with families that enhance the educational experience of our students.

We believe that:

- Parent partnership and involvement should be pursued.
- Native language materials should be available for children and their parents. Important documents sent home should be translated or simplified.

## **Professional Development and Leadership**

We contribute to the growth and development of our colleagues, our schools, and the advancement of knowledge in the field of English Language Learning. In addition, we promote appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity that makes up the District 204 learning community.

We believe that:

- Collaboration is a key component in a successful program. Strategies for English language learners can benefit all learners.
- Our community must be educated in valuing diverse populations and bilingualism.